



Texas Department of Insurance

Division of Workers' Comp

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution, MS-48

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MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name and Address

UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM
4502 MEDICAL DRIVE
SAN ANTONIO TX 78229

Respondent Name

ASSOC CASUALTY INSURANCE CO

Carrier's Austin Representative Box

Box Number 53

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-08-2336-01

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "We have reviewed the attach claim and found that the claim was under paid per Texas Worker Comp Division allowable for (STOP-LOSS THRESHOLD). Per Division of Worker Comp code 134.401 (c) (6) (i) is allowed @ 75% of billed charges. Appealing for additional payment of \$52,279.08."

Amount in Dispute: \$52,279.08

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "The billing disputed in this case has been paid at a fair and reasonable rate in accordance with TWCC guidelines, policies and rules, and the Texas Labor Code. Qmedtrix determined that \$185,911.75 represents an amount greater than or equal to the fair and reasonable reimbursement for this service. The provider must therefore prove that the reimbursement received is not fair and reasonable."

Response Submitted by: Association Casualty Insurance Co., P.O. Box 9720, Austin, TX 78766

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Date(s) of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
May 12, 2007 through July 11, 2007	Inpatient Services	\$52,279.08	\$0.00

FINDINGS AND DECISION

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code §413.031 and all applicable, adopted rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation.

Background

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.401(c)(5)(A), effective August 1, 1997, 22 TexReg 6264, requires that when "Trauma (ICD-9 codes 800.0-959.50)" diagnosis codes are listed as the primary diagnosis, reimbursement for the entire admission shall be at a fair and reasonable rate.

3. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1, effective May 2, 2006, 31 TexReg 3561, requires that, in the absence of an applicable fee guideline, reimbursement for health care not provided through a workers' compensation health care network shall be made in accordance with subsection §134.1(d) which states that "Fair and reasonable reimbursement: (1) is consistent with the criteria of Labor Code §413.011; (2) ensures that similar procedures provided in similar circumstances receive similar reimbursement; and (3) is based on nationally recognized published studies, published Division medical dispute decisions, and values assigned for services involving similar work and resource commitments, if available."
4. Texas Labor Code §413.011(d) requires that fee guidelines must be fair and reasonable and designed to ensure the quality of medical care and to achieve effective medical cost control. The guidelines may not provide for payment of a fee in excess of the fee charged for similar treatment of an injured individual of an equivalent standard of living and paid by that individual or by someone acting on that individual's behalf. It further requires that the Division consider the increased security of payment afforded by the Act in establishing the fee guidelines.
5. This request for medical fee dispute resolution was received by the Division on December 7, 2007.
6. The services in dispute were reduced/denied by the respondent with the following reason codes:
 - This claim has been repriced according to the Schedule of Fees for Physicians, Surgeons, Pharmaceuticals, Home Health Care and Hospitals for services rendered under this State's Workers' Compensation Law.
 - W4-No additional reimbursement allowed after review of appeal/reconsideration.
 - Per TWCC Rule 134.401(c)(6) in order for payment to be based on stop-loss formula, services must be "usually extensive". The documentation attached does not support payment based on stop-loss formula.

Findings

1. This dispute relates to inpatient surgical services provided in a hospital setting with reimbursement subject to the provisions of former 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.401(c)(5)(A), which requires that when "Trauma (ICD-9 codes 800.0-959.50)" diagnosis codes are listed as the primary diagnosis, reimbursement for the entire admission shall be at a fair and reasonable rate. Review of box 67 on the hospital bill finds that the principle diagnosis code is listed as 820.8. The Division therefore determines that this inpatient admission shall be reimbursed at a fair and reasonable rate pursuant to Division rule at 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1 and Texas Labor Code §413.011(d).
2. The requestor asks for reimbursement under the stop loss provision of the Division's *Acute Care Inpatient Hospital Fee Guideline* found in Division rule at 28 TAC §134.401(c)(6). The requestor asserts in the position statement that "We have reviewed the attach claim and found that the claim was under paid per Texas Worker Comp Division allowable for (STOP-LOSS THRESHOLD). Per Division of Worker Comp code 134.401 (c) (6) (i) is allowed @ 75% of billed charges. Appealing for additional payment of \$52,279.08." Division rule at 28 TAC §134.401(c)(6), effective August 1, 1997, 22 TexReg 6264, states, in part, that "The diagnosis codes specified in paragraph (5) of this subsection are exempt from the stop-loss methodology and the entire admission shall be reimbursed at a fair and reasonable rate." As stated above, the Division has found that the primary diagnosis is a code specified in Division rule at 28 TAC §134.401(c)(5); therefore, the disputed services are exempt from the stop-loss methodology and the entire admission shall be reimbursed at a fair and reasonable rate pursuant to Division rule at 28 TAC §134.1.
3. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(c)(2)(A), effective December 31, 2006, 31 TexReg 10314, applicable to disputes filed on or after January 15, 2007, requires that the request shall include "a copy of all medical bill(s)... as originally submitted to the carrier and a copy of all medical bill(s) submitted to the carrier for reconsideration..." Review of the documentation submitted by the requestor finds that the requestor has not provided a copy of all medical bill(s) as submitted to the carrier for reconsideration. The Division concludes that the requestor has not met the requirements of §133.307(c)(2)(A).
4. Division rule at 28 TAC §133.307(c)(2)(C), effective December 31, 2006, 31 TexReg 10314, applicable to disputes filed on or after January 15, 2007, requires that the request shall include "the form DWC-60 table listing the specific disputed health care and charges in the form and manner prescribed by the Division." Review of the *Table of Disputed Services* finds that the requestor listed the disputed dates of service as May 12, 2007 through July 11, 2007. Based upon the submitted medical bill and EOBs the hospital admission was from May 25, 2007 through July 11, 2007. The requestor has therefore failed to complete the required sections of the request in the form and manner prescribed under Division rule at 28 TAC §133.307(c)(2)(C).
5. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(c)(2)(E), effective December 31, 2006, 31 TexReg 10314, applicable to disputes filed on or after January 15, 2007, requires that the request shall include "a copy of all applicable medical records specific to the dates of service in dispute." Review of the submitted documentation finds that the requestor has not provided copies of all medical records pertinent to the services in dispute. The Division concludes that the requestor has not met the requirements of §133.307(c)(2)(E).
6. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(c)(2)(F)(iv), effective December 31, 2006, 31 TexReg 10314,

applicable to disputes filed on or after January 15, 2007, requires that the request shall include a position statement of the disputed issue(s) that shall include "how the submitted documentation supports the requestor position for each disputed fee issue." Review of the requestor's documentation finds that the requestor has not discussed how the submitted documentation supports the requestor position for each disputed fee issue. The Division concludes that the requestor has not met the requirements of §133.307(c)(2)(F)(iv).

7. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(c)(2)(G), effective December 31, 2006, 31 TexReg 10314, applicable to disputes filed on or after January 15, 2007, requires the requestor to provide "documentation that discusses, demonstrates, and justifies that the amount being sought is a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement in accordance with §134.1 of this title (relating to Medical Reimbursement) when the dispute involves health care for which the Division has not established a maximum allowable reimbursement (MAR), as applicable." Review of the submitted documentation finds that:

- The requestor's position statement asserts that "We have reviewed the attach claim and found that the claim was under paid per Texas Worker Comp Division allowable for (STOP-LOSS THRESHOLD). Per Division of Worker Comp code 134.401 (c) (6) (i) is allowed @ 75% of billed charges. Appealing for additional payment of \$52,279.08."
- The requestor seeks reimbursement for this admission based upon the stop-loss reimbursement methodology which is not applicable per Division rule at 28 TAC §134.401(c)(6).
- The requestor does not discuss or explain how additional payment of \$52,279.08 would result in a fair and reasonable reimbursement
- Documentation of the amount of reimbursement received for these same or similar services was not presented for review.
- The requestor did not submit documentation to support that payment of the amount sought is a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement for the services in this dispute.
- The requestor did not submit nationally recognized published studies or documentation of values assigned for services involving similar work and resource commitments to support the requested reimbursement.
- The requestor did not support that payment of the requested amount would satisfy the requirements of 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1.

The request for additional reimbursement is not supported. Thorough review of the documentation submitted by the requestor finds that the requestor has not demonstrated or justified that payment of the amount sought would be a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement for the services in dispute. Additional payment cannot be recommended.

Conclusion

The Division would like to emphasize that individual medical fee dispute outcomes rely upon the evidence presented by the requestor and respondent during dispute resolution, and the thorough review and consideration of that evidence. After thorough review and consideration of all the evidence presented by the parties to this dispute, it is determined that the submitted documentation does not support the reimbursement amount sought by the requestor. The Division concludes that this dispute was not filed in the form and manner prescribed under Division rules at 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307. The Division further concludes that the requestor failed to support its position that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$0.00.

ORDER

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code §413.031, the Division has determined that the requestor is entitled to \$0.00 reimbursement for the services in dispute.

Authorized Signature

Signature

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer

9/26/2011
Date

Signature

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Manager

9/26/2011
Date

YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST AN APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute has a right to request an appeal. A request for hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the DWC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. A request for hearing should be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceedings, Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers Compensation, P.O. Box 17787, Austin, Texas, 78744. **Please include a copy of the Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision** together with other required information specified in Division rule at 28 Texas Administrative Code §148.3(c).

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.